

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01878

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RO, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN ETHNIC EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA:
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

REF: (A) STATE 021881; (B) BONN 00732

L. WHILE WE HAVE NOT RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH THE GERMANS,
WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD POLITELY DECLINE AN OFFER OF US
ASSISTANCE ON ETHNIC GERMAN EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA.

2. THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR ITS POSITION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FROM EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE CASES AT ISSUE HERE ARE A
MICROCOSM OF THE PROBLEM, I.E., THE RECLUTANCE OF THE
WARSAW PACT STATES TO PERMIT FREEDOM OF CHOICE. THOUGH
THE FRG SHARES OUR PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF THE SITUATION,
IT HAS PURSUED A MORE LOW KEY POLICY. WITH LARGE
NUMBERS OF ETHNIC GERMANS ANXIOUS TO EMIGRATE FROM
VARIOUS EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BONN HAS FELT THE
NEED TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. ON
OCCASION, GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME
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CONCERN THAT OUR MORE OUTSPOKEN APPROACH COULD INCREASE
EASTERN EUROPEAN RIGIDITY ON EMIGRATION. IN LIGHT OF
THESE CONCERNS, WE BELIEVE THE FRG WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO
BE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE US ON THIS QUESTION.

3. THOUGH A BILATERAL APPROACH TO THE ROMANIANS WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO THE FRG MIGHT BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO BONN,

WE BELIEVE THAT HERE, TOO, THE GERMANS WOULD DEMUR. WE THINK THEY WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT THE ROMANIANS WOULD PERCEIVE ANY US BIDIZO ASSIST ETHNIC GERMANS AS ACTION TAKEN AT BONN'S BEHEST.

4. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR THAT WOULD IN OUR VIEW MAKE THE FRG RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT OUR ASSISTANCE IS THAT BONN IS PLEASED WITH THE PRESENT RATE OF EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA AND HAS RECENTLY CONCLUDED AN UNDERSTANDING WITH BUCHAREST ON THIS QUESTION.

5. ETHNIC GERMAN EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA TO THE FRG N 1977 WAS OVER 10,000--A THREEFOLD INCREASE OVER THE 1976 RATE. MOREOVER, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DURING HIS JANUARY 6 TO 7 VISIT TO ROMANIA (REF B) OBTAINED A VERBAL COMMITMENT FROM CEAUSESCU TO MAINTAIN THE 1977 LEVEL. FRG OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE ROMANIANS WILL KEEP THIS COMMITMENT. THUS, HAVING JUST CONCLUDED WHAT THEY REGARD AS A GOOD AGREEMENT, WE BELIEVE THE GERMANS WOULD PERCEIVE A US INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA AS BEING UNTIMELY. THEY MIGHT WELL BE CONCERNED THAT BY THROWING OUR WEIGHT ONTO THE SCALES WE WOULD EXPOSE THEM TO ROMANIAN CHARGES OF BAD FAITH AT A TIME WHEN EMIGRATION IS PROCEEDING COMPARATIVELY WELL.

6. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THE FRG WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO
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ACCEPT US ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.
STOESSEL

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